

Quote ref: HUM-00578

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS AND CULTURES**

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
French and Spanish Film Studies**

- 1 The University invites applications for the above post which is available from 1 April 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter for a period of 18 months.
 - 2 Salary will be £29,099 per annum.
 - 3 Informal inquiries may be made to Professor Christopher Perriam. Email: christopher.Perriam@manchester.ac.uk
 - 4 Applications should be made on line. If you are unable to apply on line please request an application form by emailing hrrecruitment@manchester.ac.uk quoting the reference number or by calling 0161 275 8838 (HR team recruitment line number).
 - 5 The University of Manchester values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.
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Job title: Research Associate

Salary: Grade 6, spine point 29 (currently £29,099 p.a.)

Start/duration: 1 April 2012 / 18 months

Probation period: 9 months

Based at: School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures

Responsible to: Christopher Perriam
Professor of Hispanic Studies

BACKGROUND

This post is attached to the AHRC-funded research project *Queer Cinema from Spain and France: The translation of desire and the formation of transnational queer identities*, coordinated at The University of Manchester by Professor Chris Perriam and Dr Darren Waldron.

This project focuses on transnational sexualities and their representation in cinema. It homes in on Spain and France (as sites of production, distribution and reception) and Britain (as a site of distribution and reception), and on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer films and their audiences/viewers. Building on previous film historical work on the processes of transnationalization of cinema and on recent shifts in thinking about queer cultural identities, the project examines specific cases of the trans-European traffic of films and film makers in the context of the notions of queer culture and queer cinema and in the period 1990 to the present day. It examines: the question of the translatability in images of formations of desire; questions of audience and critical reception and cultural translation in relation to taste, fantasy, desire and values; the relationship between cultural flows and the formation and representation of queer identities in national and transnational contexts.

It seeks to answer the following questions:

- (1) How translatable, through cinematic media, performances, and agencies are patterns and codings of queer desire?
- (2) How do the movement and reception of films and filmmakers across national, cultural and linguistic lines feed into the social construction of non-normative identities? And which structures of taste, pleasure, value, fantasy and desire circulate in these processes?

and includes the following objectives:

- to contribute to the cultural understanding of the mechanisms, strategies and discourses which inform and question the category of queer cinema in transnational contexts, specifically through case studies relating to Spain and France (as sites of production, distribution and reception) and Britain (as a site of distribution and reception)
- to identify the processes by which structures of taste, value, fantasy and desire are produced by the movement of films and filmmakers across cultural, linguistic and national lines

- to make a substantial contribution to audience research through focusing on issues of sexuality, difference and desire from the perspective of queer film history and theory
- to gauge the degree of cultural translatability of patterns of desire and their meanings in film through the application and adaptation of theories of representation, sexuality, power and culture

It seeks not only to probe queer interpretative communities and their interaction with the films as objects of the study, but also to connect with these community elements as actively engaged audiences. Festival-based presentations in France, Spain and Britain will target local audiences in order to further debate within interested collectives on issues of queer identity and citizenship. Interviews with programmers and select audiences of the London LGBT Festivals 2012 and 2013 are planned (and similar activities at Cornerhouse Manchester, which will fall outside the timespan of the appointment). Engagement with local lesbian, gay and queer communities and groups is essential to the project.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Overall, the work involves:

- archival and web-based investigation (including on-line forums and fan sites)
- festival visits;
- film and performance analysis
- the promotion of the project's aims through widespread publicity in the LGBTQ communities in question as well as academic dissemination; and audience research

It engages with media production and its reception across four languages (Spanish, French, Catalan, English) and will recruit its participants across a range of digital and physical audience locations, with a particular emphasis on festivals.

While it is expected that the research team members will each play to their strengths selectively in relation to the activities described here, all will have some active involvement in every aspect of the project. An appropriate and flexible division of labour will be an early and continuing concern of the project management process.

The Research Associate will develop her/his own research trajectory and priorities within the aims and objectives of the project, with guidance from Professor Perriam in the first instance on the overall project, and from Dr Waldron in relation to audience research, as appropriate.

The postholder will be encouraged to engage particularly with transnational and comparative dimensions of the project. S/he will also take a major role in keeping the project linked to unfolding theoretical debates and in collaborating with the two other researchers in the interpretation and dissemination of the results of the project, through journal publications (both joint- and sole-authored; three are envisaged) and conference presentations.

The University of Manchester will offer staff development activity tailored specifically to academics at this stage of their career.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- PhD in French Film Studies, Spanish Film Studies, or Queer European Film Studies
- Fluency in written and spoken English at a level suitable for peer-reviewed published work and public presentation
- Written and spoken fluency in at least one of the following: Spanish, French, Catalan
- Record of conference and seminar presentations in European, French or Spanish Film Studies or Queer Theory in relation to film
- Clear and evidenced publication plans
- Skills in qualitative research method
- Evidence of potential to develop skills in managing empirical and practical or logistical components of the project
- Evidence of potential to successfully engage in collaborative research

Desirable

- Close knowledge of lesbian film cultures and/or audiences
- Record of publication in French or Spanish Film Studies or Queer Theory in relation to film
- Experience of working on semi-popular and popular critical materials in archives and on-line
- Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills
- Written and spoken fluency in one of the following languages: English, Spanish, French, or Catalan